

PAUL BROWN

Bob Swank, president of the Friends of Lake Keowee Society, stands on a private dock located across Lake Keowee from a proposed public marina complex. The group opposes the project.

Lake Keowee group to continue to fight permit

Marina developer: "It is a public lake"

By Anna Simon

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SALEM — A state agency has decided not to hear an appeal from a Lake Keowee group that hopes to block a developer's plans for a new marina, and the Friends of Lake Keowee Society will take its appeal to the next level while the developer contends that the marina will increase public access to the popular Upstate lake.

The planned Palmetto Pointe development off State 130 is across an arm of the lake from the gated Keowee Key community.

Ray Fretwell, a managing partner in the development, said plans for the nearly 13-acre site include a marina, about 50 permanent boat slips, about 250 dry-storage spaces, a ship store and restaurant and a 20-room lodge.

The development would be open to the public, Fretwell said.

Plans are detailed in a permit application obtained by *The Greenville News* under the South Carolina Freedom of information Act.

Ben Turetzky, executive director of FOLKS, said the marina isn't needed, could create safety issues and feasible alternatives exist.

Residents in the established lake community are concerned about increased car traffic on State 130 and boat traffic on the water, as well as noise at night and management of sewer and storm water effluent, Turetzky said.

There's no demonstrated need for additional commercial marinas on Lake Keowee, Turetzky said, adding that a Duke Energy plan "calls for significant improvements, including parking expansion and courtesy docks on virtually all of the public access areas on Lake Keowee."

Fretwell said there will be more traffic "as years go by anyway, whether we do it or somebody else builds. It is a public lake. It is there for the use of the public."

Fretwell said the marina will give people a place to keep their boats at the lake "without having to buy an expensive lot and build an expensive house, and it opens the lake to more people."

"We are planning a real nice devel-

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SUZIE RIDDLE / Staff

PALMETTO POINTE
Read the application that developers submitted to get a dock permit at Palmetto Pointe on Lake Keowee at GreenvilleOnline.com/webextras

MARINA

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opment that shouldn't hurt anybody and should help out the public," he said.

Fretwell said sewer and storm water drainage will meet all state and federal requirements — and must do so for plans to be approved.

The project is still in the permitting process, and it could be a year or so before all permits are in place and work can start, Fretwell said. Once federal and state permits are in place, he hopes to have the development open in about two and a half years.

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control board has decided not to hear the appeal of the Friends of Lake Keowee Society, or FOLKS, regarding a permit to allow fill to be placed in the for construction of a commercial boat ramp to serve the Palmetto Point development, said Adam Myrick, a DHEC spokesman.

FOLKS has 30 days, if it chooses, to appeal to the state Administrative Law Court, Myrick said.

Turetzky said the FOLKS board already has given him approval to make the appeal to the administrative law judge.

Ultimately, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will have final say on whether Duke Energy can lease small amounts of land for installation of boat slips, Turetzky said. Issues of storm water and sanitary waste, as well as boat and automobile safety also will come into play during the process, Turetzky said.

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> Ray Fretwell